

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 1945

The Annual Meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on January 2, 1945, in the American Museum of Natural History. President Teale in the chair; thirteen members and three visitors were present. Miss Sordillo was excused from duty because of bad laryngitis, and John C. Pallister was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*, by President Teale. Mr. Pallister then presented six proxies by the following members: Leonard J. Sanford, Margaret L. Guy, Herbert A. Schwarz, Willis J. Gertsch, Annette L. Bacon and Alice Gray. With more than sufficient members and proxies present to constitute a quorum the meeting proceeded.

Mr. Comstock reported that the Zoological Record Fund had reached a total of \$117.00 with an additional \$10.00 promised.

Mr. Edward D. Quirsfeld, 67 Patterson St., Hillsdale, N. J., was proposed for membership.

A motion was made and approved to suspend the rules and elect Dr. Heber C. Donohoe, Research Director, William Peterman, Inc., 411 Wilson Avenue, Newark, N. J., as a member.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Comstock read the Treasurer's Report for 1944, and also reported that the Auditing Committee had found the treasurer's books in good order.

The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the elective officers of the Society, for the year 1945, were read as follows, by Mr. Sherman:

President—George G. Becker  
Vice-President—Dr. Stanley W. Bromley  
Secretary—John C. Pallister  
Assistant Secretary—Lina Sordillo  
Treasurer—Dr. Willis J. Gertsch  
Assistant Treasurer—Margaret L. Guy

Trustees—George G. Becker, Edwin W. Teale, Dr. S. W. Bromley, Wm. P. Comstock, Ernest L. Bell.

Publication Committee—Harry B. Weiss, T. C. Schneirla, John D. Sherman, Jr.

There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made and passed that the Secretary cast one ballot and elect the above proposed officers of the Society for the year 1945.

Mr. Teale then turned the meeting over to the new President, George G. Becker.

Mr. Comstock was given a vote of appreciation for his good work and the fine services of Mr. Teale were similarly recognized.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Heber C. Donohoe, Research Director, William Peterman, Inc., Newark, New Jersey, who spoke on "Methyl Bromide Fumigation, its History and Current Status." He told of the early discovery and rise of methyl bromide as a fumigant. It was first put into extensive use during the Japanese beetle quarantine. It can be used to treat a greater variety of commodities than can cyanide gas. Dried fruits and grain are treated almost exclusively by methyl bromide. Used very successfully for delousing. Although the research into its use has advanced tremendously since 1935, the speaker also warned of its dangers, because it is odorless, and there is still not enough known about its reactions.

Considerable discussion followed.

JOHN C. PALLISTER, *Secretary*

#### MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 1945

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on January 16, 1945, in the American Museum of Natural History. President George G. Becker in the chair; with eleven members and five visitors present.

Mr. Edward D. Quirsfeld, 67 Patterson St., Hillsdale, New Jersey, was elected a member of the Society.

Mrs. Patricia Vaurie, 231 E. 76th St., New York 21, N. Y., Mr. Howard M. Schiff, 43-30—44th St., Long Island City 4, N. Y., and Mr. J. M. Singleton, Hoboken, New Jersey, were proposed for membership.

President Becker appointed a Program Committee of the following members: Mr. Wm. P. Comstock, Dr. R. G. Oakley, and Mr. E. I. Huntington, and a Field Committee of Miss Lucy W. Clausen and Mr. Chris E. Olsen.

Mr. Sherman read a short letter from Mr. Mutchler, and Mr. Teale reported on the condition of Mr. Davis.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Clarence J. Goodnight who spoke on "Problems in Phalangid Taxonomy," illustrated with lantern slides.

Dr. Goodnight discussed the taxonomic position of the phalangids, showing that they appear to be most closely related to the mites. The orders, suborders, and families are well defined. Subfamilies are fairly well defined, but intermediate forms do appear. The main problems are generic and specific. Genera are based on the position of tubercles and spines, their presence or absence, tarsal segments numbers, position of eye tubercle, etc. Specific characters are based on color patterns, numbers of tubercles, spination of legs, etc. Subspecies based on color and pattern variation are also recognized.

JOHN C. PALLISTER, *Secretary*.

#### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 1945

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on February 6, 1945, in the American Museum of Natural History. President George G. Becker in the chair; with fifty members and visitors present.

The Secretary read a report of the meeting of the Trustees of the Society, at which Mr. Wm. P. Comstock was appointed Delegate to the New York Academy of Sciences.

Mrs. Patricia Vaurie, Mr. Howard M. Schiff, and Mr. J. M. Singleton were elected to membership in the Society.

Dr. R. B. Swain, U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, was proposed for membership.

The Society learned with regret from President Becker of the death of Mr. Wm. T. Davis.

Mr. Schwarz then told of his personal acquaintance with Mr. Davis and of Mr. Davis' great interest in entomology.

Mr. Sherman spoke of Mr. Davis' careful attention to the details of managing the Society.

Mr. Weiss told of Mr. Davis' carefully prepared manuscripts and reports written in longhand, his great reluctance to traveling at high speed in an auto, and his ability as an all around naturalist.

Mr. Olsen related Mr. Davis' fatherly interest in young folks and in trying to encourage their interest in entomology, and how when he, Mr. Olsen, was a young man, Mr. Davis purchased a microscope for him to use while making a series of drawings.

Mr. Teale told of the last field trip Mr. Davis made 21 days before he went to the hospital, how Mr. Davis enjoyed life, and was always trying to help some one else. The interesting thoughts and sayings that he was continually expressing, was illustrated in a short poem by Mr. Davis which Mr. Teale read.

The program of the evening was a talk entitled "The Adventures of a Naturalist Around Lake Erie," by John C. Pallister. The talk was illustrated with over 130 colored slides. Mr. Pallister told of the insects, birds, animals, wild flowers, and fungi, as well as other forms of wild life, to be found in the various types of country, such as sand dunes, marshes, prairies, woodland, and glacial bogs in this area, along the southern shore of Lake Erie, where the northern zones meet the southern zones and the western prairies meet the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

JOHN C. PALLISTER, *Secretary*.

#### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 1945

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on February 20, 1945, in the American Museum of Natural History. President George G. Becker in the chair; sixteen members and seven guests were present.

Dr. R. B. Swain, U. S. Plant Quarantine Station, 209 River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, was elected to membership.

A motion was made and approved to suspend the rules and elect Mr. Kent H. Wilson, 430 Ridgewood Rd., Fort Worth, Texas, for membership.

Mr. Edward Parr Wiltshire, Apt. 18c, One Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., was proposed for membership.

Mr. Comstock explained that the Society had received contributions of one hundred fifty-one dollars (\$151.00) toward the Zoological Record Fund. A motion was made and approved that the Society instruct the Treasurer to send this amount to the Zoological Society of London.

Mr. Comstock outlined an interesting program for the successive meetings.

The Secretary read a letter of thanks from Roswell S. Coles, Director, The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, for the flowers, the New York Entomological Society sent to the funeral of Mr. William T. Davis.

Doctor James C. King, the speaker of the evening presented an interesting talk on "Kodachrome Records of Sphingid Larvæ." The talk was illustrated with a series of excellent kodachrome slides of the larvæ and their food plants. Dr. King discussed his methods of working with the larvæ and of the advantages of photographing them with kodachrome in preference to the old methods of drawing, painting or photographing them in black and white.

JOHN C. PALLISTER, *Secretary*.

#### MEETING OF MARCH 6, 1945

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on March 6, 1945, in the American Museum of Natural History. President George G. Becker in the chair; fifteen members and nineteen visitors were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read, after an amendment, prepared by Mr. Comstock, was made as follows: "A motion was made and approved that the Society instruct the Treasurer to send this amount to the Zoological Society of London."

Mr. Comstock informed the Society that Mr. Nicolay was in a hospital and read parts of a letter he had received.

Mr. Horsfall made a motion to have the Secretary write a letter to Mr. Nicolay expressing the Society's best wishes.

Mr. Edward Parr Wiltshire, Apt. 18c, One Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. George Huddell Beatty, III, Merion, Pa., was proposed for membership by Mr. Comstock.

Mr. Howard H. Laucks, 50 West Grove Ave., Maywood, N. J., and Mr. Harold B. Girth, 33 White Horse Ave., White Horse, Trenton, New Jersey, were proposed for membership by the Secretary.

The paper of the evening, "The Cauca Valley, Colombia," was presented by Mr. E. Irving Huntington, illustrated with motion pictures. It was the account of a trip Mr. Huntington and Mr. Schwarz made to this interesting region in 1935. The Cauca River is a large river flowing northward through Colombia into the Caribbean Sea. High mountains hem the valley to the east and to the west. The floor of the valley at this part is about 3,000 feet above the sea. The rainfall is quite variable, reaching its greatest maximum of 400 inches at a point near Buenaventura. The main wet season occurs from March to May. They found collecting difficult in many of the sections because of the excessive rainfall. This was particularly true of the coastal rain-forest country. Cali was their headquarters during a large part of their stay. From here they made frequent trips by car to various places even crossing the Western Andes. Popayan, a nearby city, was the center of a large gardening region where tropical fruits flourished.

The motion pictures illustrated well the different types of country; the natives at home and at their markets in their villages and towns.

Considerable discussion followed.

JOHN C. PALLISTER, *Secretary*.

#### MEETING OF MARCH 20, 1945

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on March 20, 1945, in the American Museum of Natural History. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Comstock took the chair to call the meeting to order and was selected as temporary chairman. Seventeen members and eleven guests were present.

Mr. Arthur Blum, 1337 St. Lawrence Ave., Bronx, New York, was proposed for membership by the Secretary.

The Secretary read a report of the meeting to be held in connection with the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association.

The paper of the evening, "Collecting Lepidoptera in the Dismal Swamp and North Carolina Lowlands," was presented by Mr. Otto Buchholz.

Mr. Buchholz, who has been an ardent collector of Lepidoptera since 1891, heard first about the Dismal Swamp area from Dr. Austin H. Clark. He told of his numerous collecting trips to this region and described the swamp as an area fifty miles wide and sixty miles long extending from the sea to Albemarle Sound. The rivers flow through the area toward the northeast and as they approach the ocean broaden out to several miles in width. Only a few highways cross the swamp, and these, together with an abandoned lumber railroad right-of-way, are the best collecting places because they are the only easily accessible open areas. Some of the higher places around the edge of the swamp are cultivated, and corn, peanuts, tobacco and cotton thrive.

Mr. Buchholz showed specimens of a number of the butterflies to be found in the swamp. He explained the best method of collecting *Papilio*s was to sweep them into the net head first in order not to break their tails. *Argynnis diana* is rather common and is frequently seen around the butterfly weed. The Creola satyrid, *Enodia creola*, is also found here, but perfect specimens are difficult to find. The males, however, were in better condition than the females. The Bulenta Skipper, *Problema bulenta* Bdv. and Lec., a long-lost species was rediscovered in the region south of Wilmington, and in the Fear River Swamp.

Discussion followed with Mr. Comstock asking about sugaring. This had never proved very successful.

Mr. Schwarz asked more in detail about the collecting, and, at the request of Mr. Wiltshire, Mr. Buchholz told of the mosquito conditions which at times became quite troublesome.

The dominant trees of the swamp are bays, laurels, gums, and cypress, while on the higher ground the pines take over.

Mrs. Vaurie asked about the snakes in the swamp. Mr. Buchholz said the



largest he had ever seen was a seven-foot blacksnake; turtles were everywhere, and alligators were occasionally seen.

Mr. Comstock introduced a question about a gregarious sphingid larva, with a flexible horn. Dr. King named several species with flexible horns but knew of no gregarious species.

JOHN C. PALLISTER, *Secretary.*